

TRIBUTE TO DAVE E. DIPAOLO,
CORONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona and Norco, CA are exceptional. Our community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dave DiPaolo is one of these individuals. Dave is being honored as he retires after 36 years of dedicated service to the students, employees, parents, and community members of the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

Dave began his teaching career at Corona High School where he was appointed to Director of Activities/Athletics and initiated the Athletic Hall of Fame; designed the school's athletic handbook; served as a board member on the California Activities Directors' Association; and as a charter member and president of the Citrus Belt Athletic Directors' Association.

After serving 21 years at Corona High, Dave was promoted in 1986 to the position of assistant principal at Norco High School where he served on various athletic organizations as well as membership in management and administrative organizations. In 1997, Dave was selected to serve as Director of Human Relations for the school district, overseeing more than 1,800 employees.

Throughout his career, Dave has shown an unlimited willingness to help students, teachers and employees. He has been a role model and mentor to both students and teachers. His consistent "open-door" policy cultivated an atmosphere of communication and understanding. At all times, he has conducted himself with integrity. His leadership and contributions have touched the lives of many students and teachers.

Dave's tireless passion for education has contributed immensely to the betterment of the communities of Corona and Norco, California. Dave has demonstrated his willingness to work hard for quality education and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many children, parents, fellow teachers and administrators are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROYAL
OAK LIONS CLUB

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Royal Oak Lions Club on the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

The Royal Oak Lions Club, founded in 1928, has indeed taken up the challenge that Helen Keller presented to the International Lions Convention in 1925. She asked them to expand their interests and include services to the blind and the visually impaired.

The Royal Oak Lions Club has offered their dedicated service to numerous programs and organizations, including Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Penrickton Center for Multiply Handicapped Children, Lions Visually Impaired Camp, scholarships for hearing-impaired students at Madonna University, and the Beaumont Silent Children's speech program. Not only has this community-minded institution devoted its effort to these programs, it has also provided essential support to a myriad of services for our youth and vital community-based charities.

The Royal Oak Lions Club and its membership are important parts of the fabric of the Royal Oak and Southeast Oakland County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their longstanding commitment to public service and wishing the Royal Oak Lions Club continued success in all of their important endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ALLEN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved friend, outstanding community leader and longtime Congressional aide, the late E.T. "Mike" Allen of Whitesboro, Texas, who passed away on March 14 of this year at the age of 83. Mike served as District Assistant for my predecessor, the late Congressman Ray Roberts, from 1969 to 1980, and as my district assistant from 1980 to 1995. He also served as a member of my screening board for U.S. Military Academies and was my trusted friend and associate.

Mike was knowledgeable about the legislative process—and was so understanding and helpful with constituents who sought assistance with their concerns and problems. He knew the Congressional District from top to bottom, and in addition to being knowledgeable, was always punctual and available. He was always a gentleman and always kind in everything he did.

Mike truly enjoyed people and lived a life of service—both in the workplace and in his community and church. In all that he did—and with all whom he met—Mike brought an abiding sense of optimism and a smile that was his trademark. His favorite saying was "Always keep a happy heart." He loved people. He loved his family. He had a deep and abiding faith in God. I know of no one who knew Mike who did not consider him a friend. He was a man of honor, integrity and a generous nature.

Mike was distinguished in all walks of life. He was a well-liked and well-respected community leader in Whitesboro and Sherman. He served as mayor of Whitesboro for five terms—the last of which he was elected by write-in votes. Among his many civic activities, he served as president of the Whitesboro Chamber of Commerce, president of the local Rotary Club, president of the Quarterback Club, Master of Masonic Lodge #263 and Post Commander of the American Legion Post #398.

Mike was also president of the Grayson County Development Council, a member of

the original committee that secured the site for Grayson County College, chairman of the Parent's Committee for the 125th Anniversary Commission, a Council board member of the Boy Scouts of America and an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro. He served on the Wilson N. Jones Foundation Board of Directors and was a board member of the Grayson County Campfire Girls of America, the Old Settlers Park Association in Sherman and the Grayson County Child Welfare.

Mike also was a frequent visitor of the local domino hall and a good player in his own right. Playing dominoes was a cherished tradition that facilitated comradery and friendship and served as an unofficial repository of historic and humorous events in the life of Whitesboro.

It comes as no surprise that Mike was named Outstanding Citizen of Whitesboro twice—in 1970 and 1998.

Mike was born in Whitesboro on December 31, 1919, the son of E.T. Allen Sr. and Mary Anderson Allen. He graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1936 and from North Texas State University in Denton. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1942, where he became a first lieutenant. On returning to Whitesboro, he entered into private business with his father for 23 years before joining Congressman Roberts' staff.

In 1946 he married his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Ann Roberts Allen, a graduate of Texas Woman's University of Denton. They had a special marriage—and they have a devoted family that includes their son, Michael Allen of Tyler and daughter-in-law Carol and granddaughters Lindsay and Carly; daughter Marcy Allen Brown of Greenville and son-in-law Jon and children Leigh and Ben; sister and brother-in-law Lucille and R.B. Head, Jr., and two nieces.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew and loved Mike Allen miss him dearly—but his presence continues to be felt in Whitesboro, in Sherman and in the hearts of his family and many friends. He leaves behind such a remarkable legacy of caring and service. America is blessed to have citizens like my good friend Mike Allen, who answered the call to service for his country and his community throughout his exemplary and noble life. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this great man and great American—E.T. "Mike" Allen.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
ROBERT H. DIEFENBACHER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert H. Diefenbacher, retiring President of the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce, and commend him for his life long service to our community.

Robert Diefenbacher began his tenure as President of the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce in August of 2000, following his retirement as a successful local entrepreneur. His 38 years of business and marketing experience has been a tremendous asset to the chamber and has provided unwavering guidance and support to its membership. He spent

10 of those years creating and growing his own advertising, graphic design and printing business, a true testament to the hard work and dedication apparent in all his undertakings.

During his illustrious career Mr. Diefenbacher has worked as a consultant, professor, and journalist, passing his limitless knowledge on to countless others. He has held various management positions in companies such as IBM Corporation and Decision Data Corporation.

As a young man, after receiving his Bachelor and Master of Management Engineering Degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Robert served in the U.S. Navy as the Chief Engineer on a destroyer in the Atlantic and Mediterranean fleets. His heroics serving our nation as well as serving those in our community demonstrate Robert's tremendous leadership abilities and have allowed him to hold countless positions of prestige. He is the current Chairman of the West Whiteland Township Concert Series, a past President of the Rotary Club of Central Chester County, past Chair of the Chester County School to Career Partnership. He served as Chair of the Continental Committee of Paoli Presbyterian Church and is Past-Chair of the Advisory Committee of the former Penn State Technology Development Center Business Incubator.

Robert's service has not gone unnoticed by his peers, he has received the Service Award from the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce, was recognized with Thirty Awards for Excellence in the Neographics Competition of Graphics Arts Association, received a Philly Gold Award for a Consumer Magazine Advertising Campaign, a Business of the Year Award from the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce, an Outstanding Service Award from the Chester County Intermediate Unit and a Chamber Service Award from the Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry.

I ask that my colleagues join me today to commend and honor Robert H. Diefenbacher for his many years of service to our community and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
PASSING OF KIT GINGRICH

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family of Speaker Gingrich. His mother, Kit Gingrich, died Tuesday night in Harrisburg, PA, at the age of 77.

Having lost a parent myself, I know personally the pain that such a passing brings. My heart goes out to the speaker and to his siblings, who lost a loving and devoted mother. Speaker Gingrich's sister, Susan Gingrich, said nothing brought her mother more pleasure than her family. One of her proudest moments was watching her son, Newt, sworn in as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in January 1995.

Speaker Gingrich is from Cobb County, which is my home county, and I represent some of the areas that he formerly rep-

resented. In Cobb County and throughout Georgia, the speaker remains a beloved and revered figure for his great leadership and his contributions to our state and to our nation.

On behalf of the people of Georgia's 11th District, I want to let the Gingrich family know they're in our thoughts and prayers during their time of loss.

COMMENDING MAJORITY LEADER
TOM DELAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House Majority Leader, TOM DELAY, for his insightful speech yesterday at The Heritage Foundation. The Majority Leader clearly reminded us that we are a nation at war, engaged in a historic battle against enemies of freedom and liberty.

Yet, just two years after September 11th, instead of consistently working together to defeat international terrorism, some of my colleagues seem more intent on criticizing our Commander in Chief. Sadly, as Majority Leader DELAY said, "In the face of two of the swiftest, most humane, and most successful military campaigns in human history, they descend to name calling.

A political party must offer more than anger and name-calling, they must offer a positive agenda. They cannot just criticize, they must offer solutions. The American people, do not want petty partisan politics and constant nitpicking, they want safety and security from terrorism.

The Majority Leader correctly reminded us, "The United States is at war, and we want the nation—and its political parties—united behind our common mission to defeat global terror."

In conclusion, may God bless our troops.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAYDEN
BELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a young man from my district. Payden Bell of Bayfield, Colorado was the victim of a terrible accident earlier this summer and has shown an amazing level of courage by persevering in the face of difficult odds. As he continues on his path toward recovery, I am honored to recognize Payden before this body of Congress.

Payden was working with the family mule when something apparently spooked the animal and it took off running. In the process, a rope got tangled around Payden's feet, dragging him for over a half-mile. Suffering from life-threatening abrasions and gashes to his body and head, Payden was released from the hospital after 18 days and is expected to make a full recovery.

One can only imagine the pain and suffering Payden experienced. Many adults would not have the will power to overcome the agony of such an injury, yet this young boy has recov-

ered so rapidly that his family believes it is nothing short of a miracle. Payden had skin grafts, stitches and was even placed in an antibiotic jacket to help him heal. Less than three weeks later, his wounds were largely healed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge Payden's triumphant recovery and his courageous spirit throughout this ordeal. Payden's accident was tragic, and his determination has been remarkable. I would like to wish this young man a continued recovery and all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE FORDHAM HILL
OWNERS CORPORATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Fordham Hill Owners Corporation, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in October of 2002.

High on a hill overlooking the Harlem River in the Bronx, New York, is the Fordham Hill community. Its nine buildings are situated on 12 acres of beautiful landscaped property; lofty trees of many varieties reach skyward and the rare black furred squirrels give Fordham Hill a suburban feel.

The residents of the Fordham Hill complex are among the fortunate few to have discovered this hidden oasis; where residents enjoy the benefits of the community's close proximity to various sites such as Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Zoo, and the Bronx Botanical Garden. In addition, a wide variety of nearby services, recreational activities, dining, shopping, schools, universities, hospitals, and churches add to the quaintness of the community.

Mr. Speaker, this beautiful community was planned, designed and completed by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States in 1950. Initially created to serve as apartments for rent, this complex was transformed by E. Thomas Williams Jr., a skilled real estate investor and entrepreneur, who in 1980 outlined a plan to convert the financially troubled apartments into co-op dwellings. Williams, determined to buy the complex, raised funds, took out loans and eventually gained ownership of 65 percent of the complex. He and members of the original co-op committee worked diligently to gain support for the conversion by convincing tenants that a major benefit of buying their apartments was an opportunity for them to accrue some equity in their property after years of paying rent. By 1982 the conversion was in place, the Fordham Hill Owners Corporation was established, and Fordham Hill became the largest privately funded cooperative complex in the city of New York.

The Fordham Hill Owners Corporation is a diverse community of people from all backgrounds and professions who take pride in the community and play an active role in preserving the quality of life at the co-op. As a result of the direct involvement of co-op members, the community is thriving and continues to add splendor to the Bronx.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Fordham Hill Owners Corporation for maintaining a well-run corporation with a high quality of life for residents for more than twenty years.